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Application No.: 10/686,308  
Reply To Office Action of June 8, 2004

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No. : 10/686,308  
Filing Date : October 15, 2003  
TC/A.U. : 3722  
Examiner : Willmon Fridle Jr  
  
Confirmation No. : 8252  
Customer No. : 25074

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
September 8, 2004

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Response to Office Action**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 8, 2004 ("Office Action"), please consider the following for further examination of the above-identified patent application:

**Claim Amendments** begin on page 2 of the response; and

**Remarks** begin on page 5.

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450